

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Tuesday, December 19.

The senate today accepted the Panama canal emergency appropriation bill as originally passed by the house.

Heyburn made a new move in his fight on forest reserves by introducing a resolution calling on the secretary of agriculture for a statement of receipts and expenditures made by the forest service, also the amount of school land included in forest reservations.

Fulton introduced a bill to relieve bona fide settlers on Northern Pacific lands where such settlements were made subsequent to January 1, 1898.

A large list of appointments were confirmed.

Senator Dolliver introduced his rate bill today. It authorizes the commission to fix and enforce a maximum and reasonable rate, to go into effect 30 days after notice. The commission also provides for seven members.

The house continued debating the insurance question today. The day was passed without legislation and ended with an amusing debate on the question of the appointment of a janitor at \$60 per month to the reception room on the minority side of the chamber. In the end the janitor was not appointed.

The house committee on ways and means favorably reported Payne's bill admitting all Philippine products into the United States free, excepting sugar and tobacco, which are to pay 25 per cent of the Dingley rate until 1909, when they are also to go on the free list.

Monday, December 18.

The canal emergency appropriation bill was received in the house from the senate. Discussion of this was followed by another debate on insurance matters. The house disagreed to the amendments to the canal bill and sent it to conference.

Hale and Teller were named as the senate conferees on the canal bill.

The senate in the afternoon took up the house ship subsidy bill, which makes it the unfinished business before that body.

A joint resolution was adopted providing for adjournment from December 21 to January 4.

Dolliver has a new rate bill which he will introduce soon as a substitute for all measures now pending.

Saturday, December 16.

The senate today passed the Panama emergency appropriation bill. The only change in the measure as it passed the house is a provision which requires that congress shall be supplied with regular estimates of all salaries except those paid to laborers.

Senator Dubois, of Idaho, will retain all his present committee places and secure membership on the irrigation committee.

The house indulged itself again today to the extent of four hours of what was many times termed academic discussion of Federal control of insurance.

The holiday recess was fixed from next Thursday to January 4.

Friday, December 15.

The Panama canal was again under consideration by the senate today and Tillman occupied the entire time given to that subject. He did not indicate any intention of opposition to the passage of the appropriation bill, but he criticized the methods of the canal commission in many of its transactions. When the senate adjourned the bill was still pending, but there was an agreement for a vote tomorrow.

In the reorganization of the senate committees, now about completed, Fulton secures the chairmanship of the committee on claims, retains his place on public lands and on irrigation, and is assigned membership on one or two smaller committees. Ankeny becomes chairman of the irrigation committee and secures a place on commerce. Piles is made chairman of coast and insular survey and given a place on public lands and territories, in which latter place he will be able to work for Alaska. Heyburn did not get a single committee asked for. The only new place given him was public buildings. The fate of Dubois is not as yet settled, the Democrats not having completed their slate.

The house today devoted 4 1/2 hours to lively debate on the possibilities of controlling insurance.

Jones, of Washington, introduced

Oppose the Joint Bill.

Prescott, Ariz., Dec. 20.—At the close of the annual banquet of the Northern Arizona Bar association, a strong resolution was unanimously adopted declaring its unalterable opposition to the joint statehood bill and instructing the secretary to forward a copy, with the signature of each member attached, to Speaker Cannon, Delegate Mark Smith and Congressmen Hamilton, Tawney, and Adams, and Senators Foraker, Flint and Perkins. Strong speeches denouncing the bill were made.

Charter for Alaska Cable.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Senator Fulton today introduced a bill authorizing the North American Telegraph & Cable company, incorporated in the state of Washington, to construct telegraphic cables from the coast of Washington to Alaska, the Alutian island, Siberia, Manchuria, China, Japan and the Philippines and requiring the operation of the cable within five years. Among the directors of the company are prominent Northwestern men.

New Mexico Willing to Unite.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Joint statehood for New Mexico and Arizona was discussed by the president today with a delegation of New Mexicans, among whom were Solomon Luna, Republican National committeeman; Major W. H. H. Llewellyn, United States District attorney; Judge A. A. Freeman and A. M. Hove. Judge Freeman said he believed the people of the two territories would be glad to accept joint statehood. Major Llewellyn and Mr. Luna took up with the president some appointments in the judiciary of New Mexico.

Cut Out Opposed Section.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The Santo Domingo treaty was referred back to the committee on foreign relations. It is understood that it is the desire of the administration that the treaty be modified by striking out the provision authorizing the president to send an armed force to Santo Domingo, if at any time necessary. It is the belief of friends of the treaty that, if this provision were removed, there would be less opposition to ratification.

Finds Millions in Ground.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 18.—Anthony Blum, of Boston, principal owner of the Laurentine mine in the Manistowic district, 200 miles east of here, has unearthed tons of gold that assay \$400,000 to the ton. There are millions in sight. It is the richest discovery ever made in gold mining. He spent ten years off and on in the district and has made much money.

INSURGENTS RULE ON BALTIC.

Gunners Refuse to Fire and Ships Cannot Be Treated.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—The Daily News correspondent sends the following from St. Petersburg:

Expectation of the downfall of the government continues to grow in this city. Insurgents still hold Riga, Reval and other Baltic towns. The garrisons in these provinces are insufficient to put down the armed rebels and the artillerymen refuse to fire on them. Strikes of railroad workers and crews of steamships prevent the forwarding of troops and ammunition to the revolted provinces.

Though the government has been urged to dispatch a fleet to the Baltic ports Admiral Birleff hesitates to make any move, fearing that his sailors will join the rebellion.

Dispatches received from Manchuria today report the situation of the army as desperate. Many officers are in hiding from their own troops, fearing for their lives. The men are burning and pillaging everything within their reach, while the civil population has fled.

Revolutionary proclamations have been posted about in the barracks and in the streets. Disensions among the chief officers seriously complicate matters. The soldiers accuse the commissaries of stealing large quantities of supplies and have burned their houses.

WORK DONE ON IRRIGATION.

Great Amount of Construction Done by Reclamation Service.

Washington, Dec. 18.—A resume of the work performed by the Reclamation service to date shows that 77 miles of main canal, 54 miles of distributing system and 186 miles of ditches have been constructed, including dams, headworks, etc. Tunnels having a total length of three and one-half miles have been driven, including more than a mile of the great Gunnison tunnel. More than 250 miles of telephone lines have been installed and are in operation; 126 miles of wagon road, many miles of which were cut out of solid rock in almost inaccessible canyons, 147 bridges and 50 office and other buildings have been constructed.

The works above mentioned have called for the excavation of 9,350,000 cubic yards of rock and earth, the laying of 70,000 cubic yards of concrete, 12,000 cubic yards of riprap, 150,000 linear feet of sheet piling and 10,000 feet of bearing piles have been driven. There have been purchased 130,000 pounds of railroad iron, 250,000 pounds of structural steel, 600,000 pounds of cast iron, 1,750,000 feet of lumber, and 78,000 barrels of cement. The government has erected a cement mill at a cost of more than \$100,000, which has already turned out 15,000 barrels of cement, and is now furnishing about 300 barrels a day. The sawmills operated by Uncle Sam have cut 2,880,000 feet of lumber from the government reserves.

Speaker Cannon announced the transfer of Mondell (Wyoming) from the committee on military affairs to that of public lands, and of Miller (Kansas) from public lands to military affairs. The transfer gives the two members the same committee assignments they had in the last congress.

Committee reference of the annual message of President Roosevelt was made according to the subjects treated. The question of Federal control of insurance was assigned to the committee on ways and means. In explanation of this, Payne said that, in his opinion, the only way the United States can deal with insurance companies is through the taxing power, and over this the ways and means committee has jurisdiction.

Among the bills introduced in the house today were the following: By Mondell, of Wyoming, providing for the appropriation of not more than \$20,000 annually from the sales of public lands to the endowment of state schools of mines and mining or departments of mines and mining in connection with colleges already established.

By Needham, of California, transferring the Yellowstone, Yosemite, Sequoia, General Grant, Mount Rainier, Crater Lake and Wind Cave national parks from the control of the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture.

By Delegate Andrews, of New Mexico, providing for the admission of the territory of New Mexico as a single state.

A bill abolishing the Isthmian Canal Commission was introduced by Representative Mann, of Illinois. In its discretion is given the president to put the work of building the canal under any one of the executive departments, and also to operate the Panama railroad through the same means.

City Marshal Curren has ordered the arrest of every stranger seen in North Yakima who comes anywhere near answering the description given of the holdup men. Up to midnight last night there have been four arrests. One man was arrested by Officer Lane who answered the description perfectly. He was taken off a passenger coach on a train coming from the scene of the holdup, and was wet to the skin. It is thought he may be one of the men.

It is thought possible the bandits may have crossed the Columbia and be headed for British Columbia.

Christmas Presents by Shipload.

New York, Dec. 18.—The American line steamer Philadelphia, which sailed from New York today for Plymouth, Cherbourg and Southampton, carried 3,226 bags of mail for Europe. This represents the largest quantity of mail matter ever carried by any one steamer out of the port of New York. The Philadelphia is the Christmas ship from New York this year and the major portion of the mail she carries consists of presents for relatives and friends who are on the other side of the Atlantic.

Friends Will Give Aid.

Havana, Dec. 18.—That the Americans in the Isle of Pines have friends in the United States who are willing to aid them in every way possible in their efforts to have the island added to the Union is manifest here in letters recently received from prominent residents of the Isle of Pines. These letters say that friends in the States have offered hundreds of thousands of dollars to aid in establishing a territory of the United States.

Promotion for MacArthur.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The authoritative statement was made at the War department today that, on the retirement in September next of General Corbin, who will succeed General Bates in April next as lieutenant general of the army, General MacArthur, the officer next in line of succession, will be promoted to the grade of lieutenant general. It also was announced that General Wood probably will succeed General Corbin in the Philippine division.

Horizontal Reduction of Tariff.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Senator McCrea yesterday introduced a bill to reduce the tariff of the United States by providing that there shall be levied upon all articles imported from foreign countries a rate equal to three-fourths of the present schedule.

CONDITIONS WORSE

Troops and Workmen Fight on Streets of Riga.

WARSHIPS TO REGAIN CONTROL

Provisional Government Has Been Established in Baltic Provinces—Public Buildings Burned.

St. Petersburg, via Eydtkuhnen, Dec. 16.—It is stated upon the highest authority that two cruisers and two torpedo boats have been ordered by the minister of Marine, acting under instructions of Count Witte, after an audience with the czar, to proceed from Libau to Riga and shell the city, if the revolutionists refuse to surrender.

A provisional government has been established there and the public buildings are occupied by representatives of the home rule party, who have determined to make Riga the capital of the Baltic provinces.

Barricades have been erected everywhere, and steamers arriving at the port are unable to communicate with the shore. Public buildings have been burned. The population is fleeing and merchants are abandoning their business.

The new strike law provides heavy penalties, and drastic punishment for participants and instigators of strikes. They may be sent to prison for from 16 months to four years for an offense.

Government Openly Defied.

Paris, Dec. 16.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Matin, under date of December 15, says the sudden return of the government to reactionary measures has aroused the interest of the revolutionaries, who are holding meetings and passing resolutions declaring their determination to resist the government. As the resolutions are passed they are forwarded to the ministers, who do not reply to them.

A St. Petersburg dispatch to the Journal, dated December 15, says:

"At a meeting of engineers tonight it was resolved to demand the immediate release of Schmidt, the leader of the mutiny at Sevastopol.

"Alarming reports are arriving concerning the troops at Moscow, who appear to be thoroughly disaffected, and who, in addition to demanding increased pay and shorter terms of service, ask for liberty to read all newspapers."

DECREASE OF POSTOFFICES.

Result of Rural Delivery—Local Parcel Post Proposed.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The annual report of Fourth Assistant Postmaster General P. V. DeGraw says there has been a decrease of 575 in the new postmasters commissioned, as compared with the previous year. The actual number of postoffices in the United States at the close of the fiscal year was:

First class, 275; second class, 1,258; third class, 4,120; fourth class, 62,478; total, 68,131.

This, the report says, was a reduction, resulting mainly from the discontinuance of 3,492 fourth class postoffices during the year by reason of the establishment of rural free delivery. The aggregate compensation of the postmasters thus displaced amounted to \$198,994.

City free delivery had been extended during the year to 44 new postoffices, as against 69 in 1904. The gross receipts of free delivery offices during the year had increased 8 per cent and the cost only 2 per cent.

Mr. DeGraw renews the recommendation that a rate of 3 cents per pound or any fractional part thereof be fixed on packages not exceeding five pounds mailed at the distributing postoffice of any rural free delivery route. This rate should apply only to packages deposited in the local postoffice for delivery to boxes of patrons on routes emanating from that office, and not to mail transmitted from one office to another.

Army of Strike Breakers.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—The Chicago Employers' association, at a meeting today, formulated plans for the establishment of a standing army of laborers, both skilled and unskilled and representing every branch of trade to be prepared to go to any city in the United States to fill the places of strikers when necessary. The scope of the association will be extended so as to include every city in the United States with a population of 50,000 or more. Employment bureaus will be maintained where nonunion workmen can register.

Promotion for MacArthur.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The authoritative statement was made at the War department today that, on the retirement in September next of General Corbin, who will succeed General Bates in April next as lieutenant general of the army, General MacArthur, the officer next in line of succession, will be promoted to the grade of lieutenant general. It also was announced that General Wood probably will succeed General Corbin in the Philippine division.

Horizontal Reduction of Tariff.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Senator McCrea yesterday introduced a bill to reduce the tariff of the United States by providing that there shall be levied upon all articles imported from foreign countries a rate equal to three-fourths of the present schedule.

BOBBIE'S CHRISTMAS

"Dad b'ess all the family dear; Dad b'ess mamma, papa, too; Dad b'ess 'litle sister Fan— An' bring me a sled, nice an' new."

"Dad b'ess all the ch'il'ren poor. An' make all the sick folks well; An' dear Dad, p'ease don't forget To send a pony, big an' swell."

"Dad be gracious to your lambs, An' keep 'em out of my life; An' a box of marbles, too. An' a lot of picture books— An' a toothbrush full of tools, Wif tacks, nails, screws, an' hooks."

"An' dear Dad, some other fings To fill in corners wif, you know, Ginger cakes an' nuts an' figs An' a lot of candy, too."

"An' I wouldn't mind some skates, (I'll give my ole ones to some frien') An' I reckon dis is all— So dood-night, dear Dad, amen."

—Detroit Free Press.



Dod b'ess all my 'litle frien's— An' p'ease don't forget a fife.

"An' Dod b'ess ole Santa Claus, He is such a spriddid man! An' tell him to not forget To bring a gun, too, if he can."

"An' a box of marbles, too. An' a lot of picture books— An' a toothbrush full of tools, Wif tacks, nails, screws, an' hooks."

"An' dear Dad, some other fings To fill in corners wif, you know, Ginger cakes an' nuts an' figs An' a lot of candy, too."

"An' I wouldn't mind some skates, (I'll give my ole ones to some frien') An' I reckon dis is all— So dood-night, dear Dad, amen."

—Detroit Free Press.

Talbot's Christmas

BY FRANCIS HART.

JAMES," said Gerry Talbot suddenly, looking up from the letter he had just received, "you needn't mind about the rest. The dinner will not come off, after all."

The decorated end of the big, sumptuous studio looked oddly distasteful to Gerry Talbot since the reading of Miss Wakefield's telegram, which had shattered his enthusiastic plans. He had invited her—and her brother and his wife—to a Christmas dinner which he meant to make as festive as possible. Of course, her rejection at the last hour had been a gentle disappointment, for he had let her know unmistakably how it was with him, and he had been so hopeful of success that he had selected a ring for her Christmas gift—a little golden ezellet set with a clear white solitaire.

The streets were thronged with bustling Christmas shoppers, glad of heart, with merry, expectant faces, and here and there a wistful one, too, looking on, but not buying. Talbot noticed two little girls gazing wistfully into a confectioner's window.

"Yes, Min, I would. I'd do it fast thing," said the taller of the two. "Oh, my, wouldn't it be nice to be rich an' invite all your friends to a big turkey an' ice cream dinner?"

"They were very poorly clad, thin-featured and ill-nourished, but not unpleasant to look at. Talbot was conscious, all at once, of an inexplicable impulse to gratify the child's wish.

"So you would really like to give your friends a Christmas dinner?" said he, smiling down at her astonished eyes. "I have a great mind to let you have your wish."

"Oh, dear me, Min!" gasped Lou. "I can't hardly believe it, can you? It sounds just like a make-believe thing. Won't Miss Posey be sprided! An' Jonas an' Meg an' Tom. Oh, won't they be jest too pleased!"

"To make you shall you invite?" Talbot asked, gravely taking out his notebook. "Well, there's Aunt Katie an' Uncle Tim an' the baby. Miss Posey, Jonas Buggs, Meg an' Pat Fooley—Min, can you think of anyone else?"

"Lame Betsy an' Moll."

"How many's that?" asked Lou. "Twelve, counting us three."

"Don't you think it would be nice to have a little present beside each plate?" asked Talbot.

Both girls gasped, but looked immensely pleased.

"Suppose you two go round with me and pick out what you consider suitable for each of your guests, because I should not know what to select."

When Lou appeared at the studio on the following morning she was a very different looking girl, and any one would have known by the pure joy of her voice that some great and festive event was at hand. Talbot had finished the decorations which had been so harshly interrupted by Miss Wakefield's message, and the result was extremely gratifying, especially after Lou's rapturous exclamations.

At precisely 12 o'clock the bell rang for the first time to announce the arrival of Aunt Katie and Tim and the baby, all polished and prinked to the verge of painfulness. Next came Miss Posey, a little, faded, bowed, ancient woman in rusty black, with long gold loops in her wrinkled ears. Lame Betty thumped in on her crutches, closely followed by Moll, in borrowed finery, of various sizes. Meg brought blind Jonas, and a merry little wraith of a man called Tom Doom.

Talbot shook hands all around with a "Merry Christmas!" after which they all took their places at the beautiful

the... his watchful e... guests rewarded his... neous enjoyment of all t... fore them. It was good to s... wait upon blind Jonas, who could help himself, and upon lame Bet... whose crippled hands made difficult the use of knife and fork.

Talbot rose to replenish a half-emptied plate as the hall bell thrilled merrily. There was a pause; then James' quiet, well-trained voice said: "Yes, madam; he is at dinner in the studio."

The door swung inward. Talbot knew that he was not dreaming when she came toward him with outstretched hands and a ripple of explanation of which he heard not one word. Indeed, to him one isolated fact filled the world—that she was smiling up at him with a great promise in her eyes.

"A little friend of mine wanted to give her friends a Christmas dinner, and I persuaded her to let me share it," he explained jauntily. "It has been a great treat to me."

Miss Wakefield read the whole truth for herself as she looked into the good, homely faces that reflected their host's praises in every glance. She said nothing, but her eyes told what Talbot would have given all he possessed to hear from her lips. Then Mr. Wakefield and his wife ventured in, and Talbot bethought himself to ask if they had dined, which they had not.

Lou and Talbot made room for three plates here and there, and as there was a plenty of crullers and turkey and iced cream, all went well to the very end of the function, when the eleven originally invited guests rose and made their adieus with glad hearts and beaming faces.

Miss Wakefield stood before the grate while her brother and his wife examined a row of pictures half hidden behind the holy wreaths.

"I was so sorry to disappoint you yesterday," she said, "but poor Ted's telegram was so urgent that we were afraid he was worse, and hadn't the heart to refuse him. When I discovered that he could take an early train home I made up my mind to run in and wish you a Merry Christmas, anyway, and so we came, you see."

Talbot thought of the ring. He had taken it from its hiding place. "For a long while I have wanted to ask you to accept this—and what goes with it," he said simply, holding the glittering bauble toward her.

A red glow crept into her face. She made no audible answer, but when the young couple at the other end of the room sauntered toward them they were smiling.

CHRISTMAS TREE FIRES.

How the Danger of Parlor Conflagrations May Be Minimized.

Several accidents on Christmas eve and day each year recall the fact, apparent only on that day, that the Christmas tree is quite as dangerous as it is pretty, and that the proud father personating Santa Claus should take the precaution to equip himself with asbestos whiskers. About the usual number of fires are recorded in the country each year as a result of the inflammable nature of the Christmas tree and its decorations and their careless handling.

This warning always follows Christmas just as the outcry against pyrotechnics is raised after the Fourth of July. Of course no rose is free from thorns, and apparently no holiday can be observed in the conventional fashion without risk of accident to the merry-makers. Spattering candles on a Christmas tree are a very real danger, and the same may be said of the trees themselves, the wreaths of evergreen and the mistletoe. After a day or two they become dry and inflammable to a high degree, and in the joy of the celebration risks are run and precautions neglected. A tree thus loaded down with presents and decorations may become in an instant a torch capable of starting a disastrous fire, as many cities discovered the other day, to their great cost and to the serious discomfort of their fire departments.

By taking preventive measures thousands of dollars will be saved every year. Trees should be bought late and kept out doors until used. In the case of fresh, green trees the risk will be minimized. Candles should not be placed together and should be constantly watched.

Above all, a wet blanket should be at hand, also a sponge on a pole long enough to reach any point of the trees or ceiling. So, at least, say the fire fighters, who every year have their own Christmas spoiled by the neglect of these very obvious precautions.

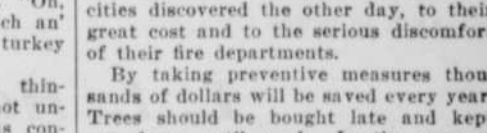
Old Ideas About Christmas.

Even as late as 1753 there was some doubt as to the exact date of Christmas, the old count bringing it to the 5th of January, the new count giving us the 25th of December, which is "the day we celebrate." In Devonshire, England, it is believed that if the sun shines at noon on Christmas day a plentiful crop may be looked for in the following year.

The Thoughtful Giraffe.

The absurd and long-legged giraffe said: "Here is a thought makes me laugh. If we giraffes should wear stockings, how could Old Santa Claus even fill half?"

ORDERED OFF.



The New Year—You'll have to move on, old man.